

## Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

## § 870.15

mining by acceptable engineering calculations or other reports which the Director may require.

(d) The reclamation fee shall be paid after the end of each calendar quarter beginning with the calendar quarter starting October 1, 1977, and ending September 30, 2004.

[47 FR 28593, June 30, 1982, as amended at 53 FR 19726, May 27, 1988; 59 FR 28169, May 31, 1994]

### § 870.13 Fee computations.

(a) *Surface mining fees.* The fee for anthracite, bituminous, and subbituminous coal, including reclaimed coal, is 35 cents per ton unless the value of such coal is less than \$3.50 per ton, in which case the fee is 10 percent of the value.

(b) *Underground mining fees.* The fee for anthracite, bituminous, and subbituminous coal is 15 cents per ton unless the value of such coal is less than \$1.50 per ton, in which case the fee is 10 percent of the value.

(c) *Surface and underground mining fees for lignite coal.* The fee for lignite coal is 10 cents per ton unless the value of such coal is less than \$5.00 per ton, in which case the fee charged is 2 percent of the value.

(d) *In situ coal mining fees.* The fee for in situ mined coal, except lignite coal, is 15 cents per ton based on Btu's per ton in place equated to the gas produced at the site as certified through analysis by an independent laboratory. The fee for in situ mined lignite is 10 cents per ton based on the Btu's per ton of coal in place equated to the gas produced at the site as certified through analysis by an independent laboratory.

### § 870.14 Determination of percentage-based fees.

(a) If the operator submits a fee based on a percentage of the value of coal, the operator shall include, with his fee and production report, documentation supporting the alleged coal value. Based on this information and any additional documentation; including examination of the operator's books and records, that the Director may require, the Director may accept the valuation submitted by the oper-

ator, or may otherwise determine the value of the coal.

(b) If the Director determines that a higher fee shall be paid, the operator shall submit the additional fee together with interest computed under § 870.15(c).

### § 870.15 Reclamation fee payment.

(a) Each operator shall pay the reclamation fee based on calendar quarter tonnage no later than thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter.

(b) Each operator shall use mine report Form OSM-1 (or any approved successor form) to report tonnage of coal sold, used or transferred, as well as the name and address of any person or entity who, in a given quarter, is the owner of 10 percent or more of the mineral estate for a given permit, and any entity or individual who, in a given quarter, purchases ten percent or more of the production from a given permit during the applicable quarter. If no single mineral owner or purchaser meets the 10 percent rule, then the largest single mineral owner and purchaser shall be reported. If several persons have successively transferred the mineral rights, information shall be provided on the last owner(s) in the chain prior to the permittee, i.e. the person or persons who have granted the permittee the right to extract the coal. At the time of reporting, a submitter may designate such information as confidential.

(c) As of April 1, 1983, delinquent reclamation fee payments are subject to interest at the rate established quarterly by the U.S. Department of the Treasury for use in applying late charges on late payments to the Federal Government, pursuant to Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual 6-8020.20. The Treasury current value of funds rate is published by the Fiscal Service in the Notices section of the FEDERAL REGISTER. Interest on unpaid reclamation fees shall begin to accrue on the 31st day following the end of the calendar quarter for which the fee payment is owed and will run until the date of payment. OSM will bill delinquent operators on a monthly basis and initiate whatever action is necessary to secure full payment of all fees and interest. All operators who receive a

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Coal Sales and Reclamation Fee Report (Form OSM-1), including those with zero sales, uses, or transfers, must submit a completed Form OSM-1, as well as any fee payment due. Fee payments postmarked later than thirty days after the calendar quarter for which the fee was owed will be subject to interest.

(d)(1) An operator who owes total quarterly reclamation fees of \$25,000 or more for one or more mines shall:

(i) Use an electronic fund transfer mechanism approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury;

(ii) Forward its payments by electronic transfer;

(iii) Include the applicable Master Entity No.(s) (Part 1—Block 4 on the OSM-1 form), and OSM Document No.(s) (Part 1—upper right corner of the OSM-1 form) on the wire message; and

(iv) Use OSM's approved form to report coal tonnage sold, used, or for which ownership was transferred, to the address indicated in the Instructions for Completing the OSM-1 Form.

(2) An operator who owes less than \$25,000 in quarterly reclamation fees for one or more mines may:

(i) Forward payments by electronic transfer in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraph (d)(1) of this section; or

(ii) Submit a check or money order payable to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, in the same envelope with OSM's approved form to: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, P.O. Box 360095M, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15251.

(3) An operator who submits a payment of more than \$25,000 by a method other than an electronic fund transfer mechanism approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury shall be in violation of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, as amended.

(e) Failure to pay overdue reclamation fees, including interest on late payments or underpayments, failure to maintain adequate records, or failure to provide access to records of a surface coal mining operation may result in one or more of the following actions: (1) Initiation of litigation; (2) reporting

to the Internal Revenue Service; (3) reporting to State agencies responsible for taxation; (4) reporting to credit bureaus; or (5) referral to collection agencies. Such remedies are not exclusive.

(f) When a reclamation fee debt is greater than 91 days overdue, a 6 percent per annum penalty shall begin to accrue on the amount owed for fees and will run until the date of payment. This penalty is in addition to the interest described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(g)(1) For all delinquent fees, interest and any penalties, the debtor will be required to pay a processing and handling charge which shall be based upon the following components:

(i) For debts referred to a collection agency, the amount charged to OSM by the collection agency;

(ii) For debts processed and handled by OSM, a standard amount set annually by OSM based upon similar charges by collection agencies for debt collection;

(iii) For debts referred to the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, but paid prior to litigation, the estimated average cost to prepare the case for litigation as of the time of payment;

(iv) For debts referred to the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, and litigated, the estimated cost to prepare and litigate a debt case as of the time of payment; and

(v) If not otherwise provided for, all other administrative expenses associated with collection, including, but not limited to, billing, recording payments, and follow-up actions.

(2) No prejudgment interest accrues on any processing and handling charges.

(Pub. L. 95-87, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 97-365, 5 U.S.C. 5514 *et seq.*)

[47 FR 28593, June 30, 1982, as amended at 48 FR 11100, Mar. 15, 1983; 49 FR 27499, July 5, 1984; 59 FR 14479, Mar. 28, 1994; 59 FR 28169, May 31, 1994]

### § 870.16 Production records.

(a) Any person engaging in or conducting a surface coal mining operation shall maintain, on a current basis, records that contain at least the following information:

(1) Tons of coal produced, bought, sold or transferred, amount received